

REPORT OF INSPECTION  
of  
April 28, 1976

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/26/13

The Anaconda Company  
Laguna Tribal Lease 4  
Jackpile-Paguato Minesite

Laguna Indian Reservation  
Valencia County, New Mexico

U. S. Department of the Interior  
Geological Survey  
Conservation Division  
P. O. Box 1716  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

by  
Dale C. Jones  
Mining Engineer  
May 19, 1976



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CONFIDENTIAL

POL-EPA01-0006253

The Anaconda Company's Laguna Tribal Lease 4 (Jackpile-Paguate Mining Lease) was inspected April 28, 1976, by the writer in the company of Clifford M. Gibbs, Superintendent of Underground Operations. The purpose of the inspection was the on-site examination of the area that would be affected by the company's proposed P-15 and P-17 Mines in order to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed mines. The mining and reclamation plan for the two uranium mines was submitted to the Area Mining Supervisor, SRMA, March 18, 1976.

The involved lands are located in Sections 9 and 16, Township 10 North, Range 5 West, N.M.P.M., on the Laguna Indian Reservation in Valencia County, New Mexico. The proposed mines would be within an area of about 1 square mile approximately 2 miles southeast of the company's currently producing P-10 Mine. The small Indian village of Paguate is located about 2 1/2 miles north of the area, and the Laguna Pueblo is about 5 miles to the south.

The proposed locations of the two mines are situated on the steeply sloping northeast flank of Black Rim Mesa where elevations range from 6000 to 6900 feet above sea level. The vegetation in the area consists primarily of a moderate cover of native grasses and juniper trees with occurrences of cacti, mostly cholla, and the surface is covered liberally with basalt boulders. A few northeast trending dry washes channel surface runoff during times of significant precipitation toward the Rio Paguate which flows southward toward the Rio San Jose. The land surface has been impressed by many drill sites and access roads that were constructed by The Anaconda Company during its exploration operations.

Wildlife in the area is probably confined to birds and small mammals typical of this part of New Mexico. According to Mr. Gibbs, a small herd of almost wild horses that belong to the Laguna Indians roam the area. Cattle do not graze in the area.

The P-15 and P-17 Mines would be underground uranium operations developed through vertical shafts 625 and 575 feet deep respectively. Mining of the ore bodies, which are located in the Jackpile sandstone unit in the upper part of the Brushy Basin Member of the Jurassic Morrison Formation, would be by conventional modified room-and-pillar stoping methods with sublevel track haulage. Ore production at both mines would begin in 1978. The P-15 Mine would have a life of about 7 years with a maximum production rate of about 500 TPD (tons of ore per day); the P-17 Mine would have a life of approximately 8 years and a maximum production rate of about 700 TPD.

During the inspection tour, the writer examined the surface equipment associated with two existing ventilation boreholes for the P-10 Mine and the drilling operations on a vent hole currently being developed for the P-10 Mine. The writer also briefly toured the village of Pagate.

No violations of safety rules or lease terms were observed.

Dale C. Jones  
Mining Engineer

Orig to: Superintendent, BIA, Southern Pueblos Agency  
cc: Governor, Pueblo of Laguna  
cc: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations through  
Regional Conservation Manager  
cc: Files